CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A property-manager system comprising:

a persistence layer that stores a plurality of properties in a computer-readable storage medium, each property including a name-value pair;

an application layer that offers services to application[[s]] programs having a variable dependent on one of the plurality of properties, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including promptly notifying an application program having a variable dependent on a particular property when a notification of an update for the particular property is received; and

an interface layer that accepts user input to update properties stored by the persistence layer, wherein the interface layer notifies the application layer of the update for the particular property.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the application comprises:

an application class, the application class including a property listener that receives the notification, the property listener including a list of property keys of interest to the application.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2,wherein the application layer maintains a lookup table that records, for each of a plurality of property keys, a list of property listeners that have registered with the application layer to listen for that property key.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the application class is an application class of a middleware application.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the middleware application provides flow through from a plurality of ordering applications to at least one back-end application.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the application layer is contained within a common project within the middleware application.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the application layer is contained in a client JAVA Archive (JAR) file.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the application layer is contained in a Dynamic Link Library (DLL) file.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein, the persistence layer stores a version number, a time stamp, an author name, and a description associated with at least one of the plurality of properties.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the interface layer displays a name, a value, the information associated with at least one of the plurality of properties.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the interface layer accepts user input to update the value associated with a property.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the interface layer accepts user input to update the information associated with at least one of the plurality properties.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the interface layer displays a time stamp associated with the at least one of the plurality of properties.

15.-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

accepting, into an interface layer of a property-manager system, user input to update a first property stored in a computer-readable storage medium, the first property including a name-value pair;

in response to accepting the user input, notifying an application layer of the system of the updated first property, the application layer offering services to applications that have a variable dependent on the first property, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including promptly notifying an application having a variable dependent on ~~a particular~~ the updated first property when an update for the ~~particular~~ first property is received; and

in response to the application layer being notified of the updated first property, notifying an application having a variable dependent on the first property of the updated first property, wherein the notifying the application is performed by the application layer.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code executable by a computer system to:

accept into an interface layer of a property-manager system, user input to update a first property stored in a computer-readable storage medium, the first property including a name-value pair;

notify an application layer of the system of the updated first property in response to accepting the user input, the application layer offering services to applications that have a variable dependent on the updated first property, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including promptly notifying an application having a variable dependent on a particular property when an update for the particular property is received; and

notify an application having a variable dependent on ~~the first property of~~ the updated first property, wherein the notifying the application is performed by the application layer.

23. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the services further include receiving from an application program a list of property names of properties upon which one or more variables of the application program depends.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the services further include, for each property name, maintaining a list of application programs having a variable dependent upon the property corresponding to the property name.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the services further include registering the applications, receiving from an application a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, and, for each property name, maintaining a list of applications having a variable dependent upon the property corresponding to the property name.

26. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22,wherein the services further include registering the applications, receiving from an application a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, and, for each property name, maintaining a list of applications having a variable dependent upon the property corresponding to the property name.